



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 June 1998

Original: English

Twentieth special session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Measures to promote implementation of the international drug control treaties and to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, including corruption; and proposals for new strategies, methods and practical activities in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with due regard to the gender perspective

Letter dated 5 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

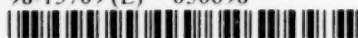
I have the honour to transmit to you a Joint Declaration by the Governments of Mexico, Portugal and Sweden on the occasion of the International Symposium on the World Drug Problem, held at Stockholm on 13 and 14 May 1998.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its attachment could be circulated as a document of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on narcotic drugs.

(Signed) Hans **Dahlgren**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Sweden

* A/S-20/1

98-15709 (E) 050698



Annex

Joint Declaration by the Governments of Mexico, Sweden and Portugal on the occasion of the International Symposium on the World Drug Problem held at Stockholm, on 13 and 14 May 1998

The Governments of Mexico, Sweden and Portugal jointly organized, at Stockholm, on 13 and 14 May 1998, an International Symposium on the World Drug Problem, entitled "Global Challenges-Common Solutions", with the participation of 30 distinguished personalities and experts from around the world.

The participants at the Symposium examined the global drug problem and possible common solutions within a broad perspective, covering both the demand and supply side, and the social, economic, health, crime and security issues.

The Governments of Mexico, Sweden and Portugal expressed:

Their strong support for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to counter the world drug problem, to be held in New York, from 8 to 10 June 1998, which will set a new global strategy for the international community to effectively tackle this problem in the twenty-first century;

There deep satisfaction with the results obtained by the preparatory committee of the special session, which successfully concluded seven documents to be submitted for approval, at the highest political level, by States Members of the United Nations in New York, from 8 to 10 June 1998;

The importance of the principle of shared responsibility, which should guide the actions of all States in the fight against drugs, based upon a spirit of mutual cooperation, trust and solidarity, as well as full respect for national sovereignty and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

The need to adopt a balanced and integrated approach towards the world drug problem, based upon the notion that international, regional and national strategies can only be effective if they simultaneously take into account both the questions of supply and demand reduction;

The relevance of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, as a fundamental instrument in an effective global strategy and the need for efforts in this area to be met with practical actions;

The value of scientific knowledge as a key element in the definition of policies addressing the drug problem;

The importance of including public health issues in drug control policies;

The need for all communities, especially families, and educational, cultural, sports, religious and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, the international financial institutions and the media to actively contribute to the promotion of societies relieved of the problem of drug abuse;

The importance of involving and engaging young people, particularly in the preventive work against drugs;

The importance of conveying constructive and positive messages on the fight against drugs, in order to counter messages of false appeal regarding drug consumption, as well as some trends of pessimism and disbelief frequently instilled in our societies;

Their support for the fundamental role played by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the fight against drugs;

The belief that efforts to counter the world drug problem require a long-term perspective and firm and persistent political will by all members of the international community;

Their deep appreciation for the significant contributions made by the participants in the International Symposium held at Stockholm in assessing the current global drug problem and in identifying new paths for international and multilateral cooperation in this area.

In this context, the Governments of Mexico, Sweden and Portugal declare:

Our firm commitment to undertake all efforts in order to fully implement in our countries the objectives set out in the documents approved by the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem;

Our belief that the future success of the special session will depend upon the political commitment of all Member States to implement these measures and to continuously promote enhanced international cooperation in the fight against drugs;

Our support for the follow-up procedure envisaged in the draft Political Declaration of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problems;

Our will to collaborate and work closely together in order to ensure that the commitments of the special session will be met by practical action, in a spirit of increased international cooperation.
